
Assessment of the Current Parks and Recreation System



DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL STANDARDS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

In developing land use standards, many cities follow the examples and guidelines provided through state and national organizations. While this is very useful information, it does not consider the unique opportunities and activity demands found in local communities. In recent years the National Recreation and Parks Association has published *Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines*. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation publishes the *Virginia Outdoors Plan*. Both documents have been referred to in the development of Hampton's 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Strict use of national and state standards, however, has been avoided. Using these guidelines only without regard to local usage patterns and feedback from user groups can result in costly and unnecessary projects.

More accurate local standards are formulated using demographics and user comments regarding the need for game fields, practice times and expressed needs for new and special use facilities. Together, this information helps to develop projections for future needs. Hampton's work in this area has resulted in a demand-based standard in some cases. This local standard mirrors comments and the pattern of demands by school, city sponsored, alternative team sport participants, and the citizens who participated in the public forums and focus groups.

THE PHYSICAL MAKE-UP OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

The physical Parks and Recreation system is divided into three major categories: neighborhood, community, and citywide. Facility design and site amenities are planned based on the type of facility. Differences in size, service area, purpose, character and location vary among the categories.

COMMUNITY FACILITY

SIZE:	20-50 acres	
SERVICE AREA:	Approximately 5-10 minutes driving time ratio of 1:20,000 people.	
PURPOSE:	Supports active and passive indoor and outdoor recreational activities. Withstands intensive use and may contain a combination open space, athletic game facilities and indoor spaces. Facilities are intended to serve several neighborhoods.	
CHARACTER:	Facilities may support a number of various activities simultaneously resulting in the need for adequate parking and the location of high intensity activities some distance from residents. Multi-purpose playing fields should support game activities, which may be held during nighttime hours. Indoor facilities should support a number of various activities from recreational classes to community meetings and may serve dual functions i.e. as a community center and as a teen or senior citizens center. Access is gained by auto, bicycle, or walking. Fields and courts may be lighted and restrooms may be available. Facilities are accessible to the disabled.	
LOCATION:	Wherever possible facilities should be located near the center of a community. Ideally, middle schools should service this function with additional indoor center and swimming pool spaces added as new construction. Access and services by public transportation system should be nearby.	
AMENITIES FOUND AT COMMUNITY FACILITIES:	<div>Community Centers</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ meeting/class rooms■ athletic courts■ multi-purpose rooms■ kitchen■ gymnasiums■ swimming pool <div>Community Parks</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ athletic courts■ athletic fields (lighted)■ running/walking tracks	<div>Open Spaces</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ water/walkways■ trails■ greenways■ canal walks

CITYWIDE FACILITIES

SIZE: 50+ acres

SERVICE AREA: Serves the need of the entire community in special interest areas.

PURPOSE: Provides full range of urban area recreational needs to serve large populations. It should contain natural park areas and be adaptable to a wide variety of leisure activities.

CHARACTER: This is a destination or special feature facility with access primarily by auto or bicycle. The facility may contain intensely developed areas for day use recreation while providing ample open space with buffers between activity areas. Natural areas and trails are ideal features along with lakes, creeks, beaches, golf, and multi-field athletic complexes.

Indoor facilities should offer educational, environmental and historical attractions, programs or offer special use or unique features. Age appropriate programs, equipment and exhibits should be available to all participants.

LOCATION: When possible, the facility should be located near the center of a large service area. It should be on a major thoroughfare with major arterial roads for access.

**AMENITIES
FOUND AT
CITYWIDE
FACILITIES:**

- Golf Course
- Carousel
- Beaches
- Nature Park
- Natural Preserve
- Conservatory
- Amphitheater
- Athletic Stadium
- Historic Sites
- Zoo
- Boat Ramps
- Multi-purpose Athletic Complex

NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITY

SIZE:	5-20 acres	
SERVICE AREA:	5-15 minutes walking distance or ½ mile radius	
PURPOSE:	Provides limited recreational opportunities for families and persons of all ages.	
CHARACTER:	Easy access and intensive use is expected from primarily pedestrian users. Outdoor park sites should provide level-to-gently rolling areas to accommodate intensive use. Shaded areas provide for passive recreation. Limited parking should be available. Outdoor facilities are not lighted nor provide restroom facilities. Programmed activities may occur in both indoor or outdoor facilities on a seasonal or year round basis. Facilities are suitable for organized athletic practices but not competitive games with accompanying spectators. Indoor facilities are primarily meeting and classroom spaces along with multi-purpose areas. Indoor swimming pools, and basketball courts are generally not included in these facilities. Facilities are accessible to the disabled.	
LOCATION:	Facilities should ideally be located at or near an elementary school or other neighborhood center. May be located in residential communities. Activity impact to adjacent property owners should be taken into consideration. Generally not located near major intersections and thoroughfares.	
AMENITIES FOUND AT NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES:	<div>Neighborhood Center</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ meeting rooms■ class rooms■ multi-purpose rooms <div>Neighborhood Parks</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ picnic tables■ park benches■ playground■ athletic fields (not lighted)■ athletic courts■ walking trails	<div>Open Spaces</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ playgrounds■ athletic courts/fields■ canal/water walks

HAMPTON FACILITY STANDARDS

CLASS	SIZE RANGE	SERVICE AREA
Neighborhood Facility	5 - 20 Acres	½ mile radius
Community - Outdoor Facility	20 - 50 Acres	3 mile radius
Community - Indoor Facility	20,000 - 80,000 sq. feet	1 per 20,000 people
City-wide Facility	50+ Acres	Entire city special interest
Total Recreation Area	½ Acre - 500+ Acres	1 Acre per 60 People

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN

	ACREAGE	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	GYMNASIUM	FOOTBALL	PLAYGROUND	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS
Aberdeen Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	5.03	1	2		1	1			
Air Power Park	15					1			
Armstrong Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	4.17	2			1	1			2
Asbury Elementary School	6.77				1	1		1	
Barron Elementary School	10.9	2			1	1			
Boo Williams Basketball Center	0.4		1						
Bassette Elementary School	14.26	1				1			
Bethel High School	33.73	1		2	1		1	1	6
Bluebird Gap Farm	60					1			
Booker Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	7.88	1	0.5			1	1		
Briarfield Park	49.21					1		4	5
Bryan Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	12.16		2		1	1		1	
Buckroe Beach	6.5								
Buckroe Park	8								
Burbank Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	7.56	1	2			1			
Carousel Park	1								
Cary Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	11.8	1	1.5		1	1			
Community Services Center	1.3						1	1	
Cooper Elementary School	19.4					1	2		
Dandy Point Boat Ramp	2.8								
Darling Stadium	6				1		1		
Davis Middle School	23.09	2	2	2	1		1		4
Eason Memorial Park	10					1			
Eaton Middle School	23.65	1	2	1	1		2	1	4
Forrest Elementary School	11.1	2	2			1		1	
Fort Wool	15								
Gosnold's Boat Ramp	Included in GHP acreage								
Gosnold's Hope Park	103				3	1	2	1	
Grandview Nature Preserve	578								
Grant Street Park	3.03					1			

	ACREAGE	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	GYMNASIUM	FOOTBALL	PLAYGROUND	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS
Grundland Creek Park	74.6					1			
Hampton Coliseum	15								
Hampton High School	34.31	1	2	1	1		1		6
Hampton Tennis Center	Included in WGC								7
Hamptons Golf Course	200								
Jones Middle School	17			1			3		4
Kearney Park	0.15								
Kecoughtan High School	22.86	1	1	2	1		2		6
Kraft Elementary School	12.74	1				1			
L.B. Davis Playground	0.7		2			1			
Langley Elementary School	11.78					1			
Lee Elementary School	12.57		1			1			
Lincoln Park Outreach Center	--			1					
Lindsay Middle School	20.59			1	1		1	1	4
Machen Elementary School/Neighborhood Park	9.01	1	1		1	1			
Mallory Elementary School		2	2			1			
Mary Peake Childhood Center	7.42					1			
Merrimack Elementary School	6.75					1			
Mill Point Park	2.19								
Mitchell Memorial Park	0.12								
Moton Elementary School	6.71	1	1			1			
North Phoebus Community Center	1.9		2	1		1			1
Northampton Community Center	Included in Davis'								
Old Hampton Community Center	5.38		2	1		1			3
Park Place	2								
Park Place Playground	2.3	1	1			1			
Phillips Elementary School	10.35	2	1			1	1		
Phoebus High School	11.6	1		2	1		1	1	6
Pine Chapel Outreach Center	0.5			1					
Ridgway Park	8.3					1			
River Street Park	0.3								
Robinson Park	4.75								
Salina Street Neighborhood Center	Included in Tyler		1						

	ACREAGE	BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	GYMNASIUM	FOOTBALL	PLAYGROUND	SOCCER	SOFTBALL	TENNIS
Salt Ponds Beach	3.46								
Sam Houston Park	2.1								
Sandy Bottom Nature Park	456					1			
Senior Citizens' Center	0.6								
Smith Elementary School	8.84	1				1			
Spratley Middle School	15.75	1		1	1				4
Sunset Boat Ramp	2								
Syms Middle School	18.6	1	1	1			1		4
Tarrant Elementary School	14.76	1				1			
Tucker-Capps Elementary/Neighborhood Park	12.27	1				1			
Tyler Elementary	12.61	1				1	2	1	
Woodland Road Park	7.03								
Woodlands Golf Course	105.75								
Wythe Elementary	6.57	2				1			
Y.H. Thomas Neighborhood Center	Included in YHT Park's acreage			1					
Y.H. Thomas Park	13	1	1		1	1		1	
TOTALS	2,232	35	34	19	20	39	23	15	66

December 1997

2020 ADDITIONAL FACILITY DEMANDS

Facility	Demand	Existing Meeting Standard	Existing Substandard	Additional Required
Baseball Fields	59	22	13	24
Softball Fields	18	11	4	3
Soccer Fields*	39	16	7	16
Football Fields*	26	13	7	6
Basketball Courts - outdoor	32	27	7	0
Basketball Courts - indoor	23	19	0	4
Tennis Courts	76	52	14	10
Field Hockey*	5	1	0	4
Running Tracks	10	2	8	0
Pools – indoor	4	0	1	3
Golf – holes	58	45	0	13
Boat Ramp	5	3	0	2
Ice Hockey – indoor	2	0	0	2
Roller Hockey	4	0	2	2

*multiple use fields

*DEMAND REQUIREMENTS TAKEN FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ATHELTIC AND FACILITY ASSESSMENT - 1996*